

**Meeting Minutes of
The Governor's Council on Behavioral Health
1:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 9, 2010**

The Governor's Council on Behavioral Health met at 1:00 PM. on Tuesday, February 9, 2010, in Barry Hall's Conference Room 126, 14 Harrington Road, Cranston, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Linda Bryan, Sandra DelSesto; James Gillen, Joseph Le, Peter Mendoza, Elizabeth Earls, Scotti DiDonato, Karen Kanatzar, Richard Leclerc; Neil Corkery and Anne Mulready

Ex-Officio Members Present: Denise Achin, Department of Education; Debra Florio, Department of Human Services; Craig Stenning, Department of MHRH

Guests: Kathleen Carty, Vantage Point; Linda Del Boyan, parent; Ian Knowles, RICARES; Richard Antonelli, Mental Health Association; Deb Conley, RI College; Vivian Weisman, Mental Health Association; and Bruce J. Long Middletown Task Force.

Staff: Charles Williams, Corinna Roy

Once a quorum was established, Richard Leclerc, the Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. After introductions were conducted, Richard Leclerc entertained a motion to accept the Minutes of January 14, 2010, Elizabeth Earls motioned to approve and Peter Mendoza seconded the motion. There was one correction noted: Denise Achin requested to change the name of the subcommittee from Transitional of Children subcommittee to Transitional Youth subcommittee. Richard Leclerc called for a vote to approve the minutes, all were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Annual Report: Richard stated that the report has been revised and submitted.

Transitional Youth Subcommittee Report: Denise Achin reported the subcommittee had scheduled three meetings, and held two meetings. The last meeting was in January, the next meeting will be on March 19, 2010, from 1-3 pm at Barry Hall. She also mentioned that their members are increasing, with all of the new requests to join the subcommittee there are now 24 members. They are in the information gathering stage with meetings scheduled for every other month until December 2010. Richard asked if specific goals of the committee could be articulated. Denise answered that the goal is to find ways to facilitate better transition of youth into the adult system.

Recovery Oriented System of Care Subcommittee Report: Ian Knowles reported that the subcommittee continued to meet. They met two weeks ago and had a couple of challenges. One of the concerns is trying to get people together to meet, and that the CMHC's are significantly under represented. Richard asked if someone wants to join the workgroups whom should they contact. Ian responded to contact him and he will inform the co-chairs. Liz requested an e-mail address to contact the subcommittees in case CMHOs are interested in joining.

MHRH Data Elements: Noelle Wood was not present; therefore Corinna Roy did the presentation. She explained that the first page of the Governor's Council Data Measures document describes all of the measures that MHRH has identified and all the information coming from MHRH data. See attached report.

Updates from DCYF: There was no representation at the meeting. Elizabeth Earls stated that the Child Welfare advisory committee met last week. DCYF reported that they hope to have Phase II of their System of Care in place by July 1.

Updates from DHS: Debora Florio talked about the aggressive timelines for their restructuring projects. They released a RFI and received nine responses from community organizations or professional organizations like the Council on Community Mental Health Centers, Health Centers Associations, Kids Count, Ocean State Action, and managed care organizations. Right now they are gathering, analyzing, and reviewing the information that people gave them and which will inform development of the request for proposals. Their timelines are aggressive; they hope to have the RFP on the street mid to late March and go through the selection process and do the awards by July 1st. They have been establishing a shared living service for folks with Medicaid who are physically disabled, developmentally disabled or elderly. MHRH has been doing this for sometime with their DD populations; however, it is new to DHS. They selected Homestead and Senior Link to provide services for these populations. Homestead is a DDD share living provider. Senior Link is an organization located in Lincoln, Massachusetts that has done this type of care for elderly and disabled folks for some time in that region. They are in the process of formalizing their contracts and potentially having the services on line in the next 6-8 weeks. Both organizations have agreed to come up with 50-bed capacity by June 2010.

Updates from MHRH:

Craig stated that as of 2:18pm today Rosemary Booth Gallogly is the new Director of Administration and Thomas Mullaney is the new Budget Officer. Craig talked about his testimony the day before and gave the good news about approval from SAMHSA for a waiver on their maintenance of effort (MOE) on both the substance abuse and mental health block grants. The conditions of the waiver require states to prove that they are being met with an extraordinary economic condition, we had to show evidence that the total tax revenue for the state declined by at least 1.5% and that either unemployment increase by at least 1% or employment declined 1.5%. Craig stated that obviously the state met all of those requirements without much difficulty. A request for clarification on the requirements was made. Craig responded that they will not get a fiscal penalty in their substance abuse and mental health block grants. MHRH is just awaiting a letter with the official signatures giving us approval of our waiver application. Craig also talked about an invitation for a training taking place on February 22, 2010, 9:00am at the former Evelyn's West Warwick. This is the result of the collaboration between the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Association, the association that represents most of the DDD agencies, and many of their providers in both systems. They came up with one of the forums that the Institute for Recovery held last year to look at the overlap between individuals with developmental disabilities and significant substance abuse issues. Craig continued discussion about the budget. He stated that the new budget is out and that are several new initiatives.

New/Old Business:

Upon motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 3:10pm. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for **Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. in Barry Hall room 126.**

Minutes respectfully recorded and written by:

Delia M. Aguilar, Acting for
Secretary, Governor's Council on Behavioral Health